

BRFSS Brief

Number 1001

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population aged 18 years and older.

Breast Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Women 2008

Introduction

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer among women and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women in New York State. There are approximately 14,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed each year in New York, and over 2,800 women die from the disease annually. The risk of breast cancer increases with age and varies across racial groups. White women are more likely than black women to be diagnosed with breast cancer and to have breast cancer diagnosed at early stages. Among women with breast cancer, black women are more likely than white women to die from the disease.¹

Screening for breast cancer can increase the likelihood of identifying cancer at early stages when treatment is most successful. Women who are between 50 and 74 years of age should be sure to get a mammogram every two years. Women who are

between 40- and 49-years-old, or those with family histories or other risk factors for breast cancer, or who have any symptoms or changes in their breasts, should talk to their doctors about what screening schedule is right for them. Recommendations for when and how often a woman should be screened for breast cancer may differ between organizations. Regardless of these differences, each woman should be aware of her personal risk for breast cancer and decide, with her doctor, when and how she should be screened for breast cancer.

Improving outcomes for women with breast cancer is a priority for New York State. The *Prevention Agenda Toward the Healthiest State* includes two objectives around breast cancer: increasing the percentage of early stage diagnosis and reducing mortality associated with breast cancer.²

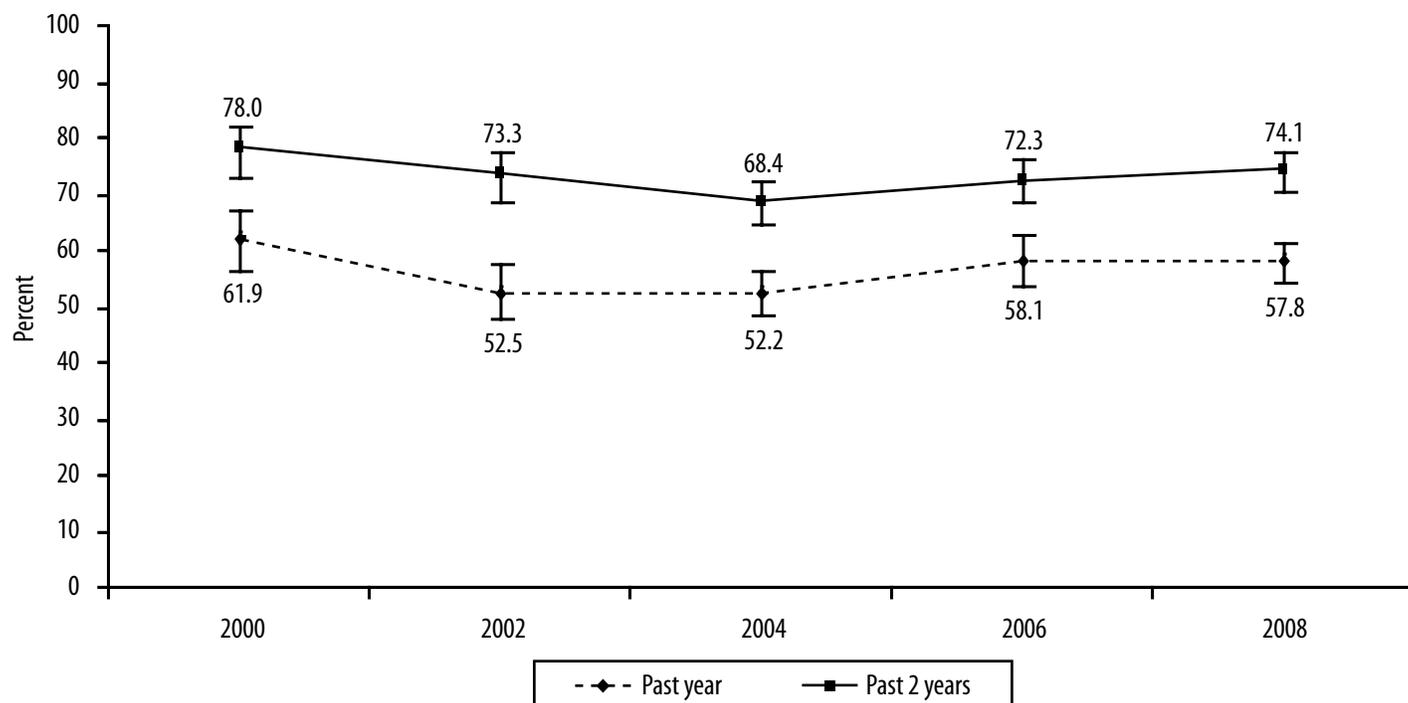
BRFSS Questions

1. A mammogram is an x-ray of each breast to look for breast cancer. Have you ever had a mammogram?

[If "yes"]

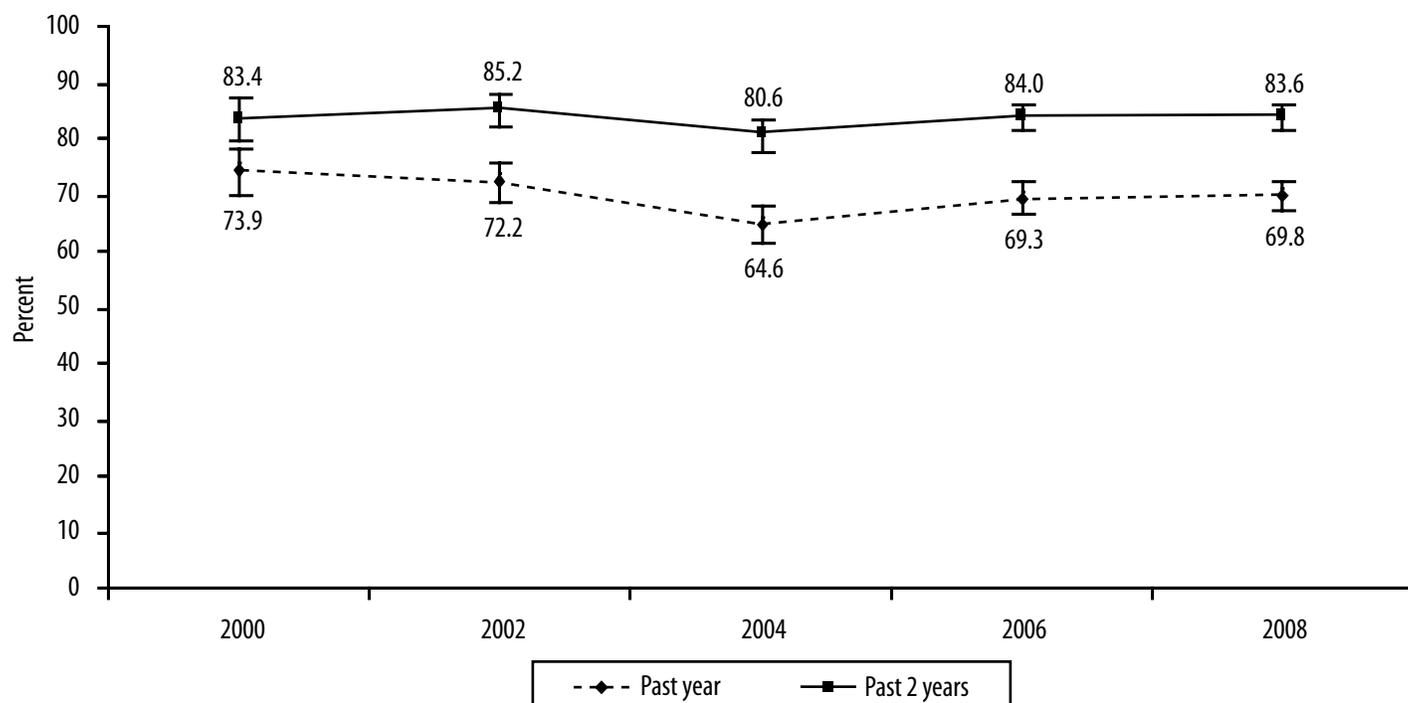
2. How long has it been since you had your last mammogram?

History of Mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) Among New York Women Aged 40-49 Years, by BRFSS Year



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

History of Mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) Among New York Women Aged 50-74 years, by BRFSS Year



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

History of Mammogram (ever, within past year, within past 2 years) Among New York Women Aged 40 Years or Older, by Selected Characteristics, 2008 BRFSS

	Mammogram History					
	Ever		Within past year		Within past 2 years	
	% ^a	95% CI ^a	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Total New York State (NYS) [N=3,881]	92.3	91.5-93.9	65.0	63.1-66.9	79.4	77.7-81.0
Age (years)						
40-49	87.6	84.5-90.2	57.8	54.0-61.6	74.1	70.5-77.4
50-74	95.3	93.7-96.5	69.8	67.3-72.2	83.6	81.5-85.5
≥ 75	94.8	92.7-96.4	63.3	59.0-67.4	76.2	72.2-79.9
Race/ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	94.4	93.3-95.3	64.9	63.0-66.8	80.2	78.5-81.7
Black non-Hispanic	87.5	81.4-91.8	65.8	59.1-72.0	79.2	73.0-84.3
Hispanic	93.6	88.9-96.4	69.6	62.4-76.0	81.1	74.3-86.5
Other non-Hispanic	87.5	78.5-93.1	56.1	46.1-65.7	70.2	60.0-78.8
Annual household income						
< \$15,000	89.3	84.0-93.0	61.4	55.0-67.3	74.5	68.5-79.6
\$15,000-\$24,999	89.4	84.4-92.9	60.2	54.6-65.5	74.2	68.8-79.0
\$25,000-\$34,999	92.8	89.0-95.4	64.8	58.8-70.4	78.6	73.0-83.3
\$35,000-\$49,999	95.6	92.4-97.4	65.7	60.3-70.8	80.8	76.2-84.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	95.5	92.0-97.5	67.7	62.1-72.9	83.0	78.6-86.7
≥ \$75,000	96.7	90.9-95.6	68.3	64.6-71.8	83.4	80.2-86.3
Missing ^b	92.5	89.0-95.0	63.0	58.1-67.7	76.4	71.7-80.5
Educational attainment						
Less than high school	89.6	83.0-93.8	62.3	54.8-69.2	74.1	66.7-80.3
High school or GED	91.2	88.5-93.4	63.2	59.7-66.7	77.8	74.6-80.7
Some post-high school	92.9	90.5-94.8	65.4	61.7-69.0	79.2	75.9-82.2
College graduate	95.0	92.9-96.4	66.9	63.7-69.9	82.3	79.5-84.8
Health care coverage (insured)						
Yes	93.9	92.7-94.9	66.7	64.7-68.6	81.3	79.6-82.9
No	79.1	70.4-85.8	42.1	33.9-50.8	53.5	44.8-61.9
Disability^c						
Yes	93.4	90.9-95.2	62.5	59.0-65.9	77.2	74.0-80.2
No	92.6	91.0-93.9	66.1	63.8-68.3	80.4	78.3-82.2
Residence						
New York City (NYC)	89.2	85.7-91.8	63.2	59.1-67.0	76.9	73.1-80.4
NYS exclusive of NYC	94.5	93.4-95.5	65.8	63.7-67.9	80.6	78.8-82.2

a % =Percentage; 95% CI =Confidence interval (at the 95 percent probability level). Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

b "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

c All respondents who report activity limitations due to physical, mental, or emotional problems OR have health problems that require the use of special equipment

References

1. New York State Cancer Registry. Cancer incidence and mortality for New York State, 2003-2007. New York State Department of Health, 2009. Available at: <http://www.nyhealth.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/>.
2. New York State Department of Health. State and county indicators for tracking public health priorities, 2009. Available at: http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/indicators_matrix.htm.

Program Contributions

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